

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A water-soluble lubricant for warm or hot metal forming, comprising a high polymer compound comprising at least one imide group and whose weight-average molecular weight is 1,000 to 1,000,000, wherein said high polymer compound is (A) an imidated acrylic acid and maleic anhydride copolymer obtained by imidating a copolymer of maleic anhydride and acrylic acid ~~a high polymer compound obtained by imidating part of a polymer or copolymer of at least one type of compound selected from among carboxylic acids having carbon-carbon double bonds, and derivatives thereof, and said high polymer compound does not comprise a nonionic polymer.~~

2. (previously presented) The water-soluble lubricant of claim 1, wherein the content of the high polymer compound is 1 to 70 mass percent per 100 mass percent of the water-soluble lubricant.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The water-soluble lubricant of claim 1, wherein the imidation ratio of said high polymer compound is 1 to 80 molar percent.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A water-soluble lubricant for warm or hot metal forming, comprising a high polymer compound comprising at least one imide group and whose weight-average molecular weight is 1,000 to ~~1,000,000~~ 60,000, wherein said high polymer compound is (B) an imidated alpha-olefin and maleic anhydride copolymer obtained by imidating part of a copolymer of maleic anhydride and alpha-olefin ~~by ammonia~~, and said high polymer compound does not comprise a nonionic polymer compound.

8. (previously presented) The water-soluble lubricant of claim 7, wherein the content of the high polymer compound is 1 to 70 mass percent per 100 mass percent of the water-soluble lubricant.

9. (previously presented) The water-soluble lubricant of claim 7, wherein said alpha-olefin is isobutylene.

10. (new) A water-soluble lubricant for warm or hot metal forming, comprising a high polymer compound comprising at least one imide group and whose weight-average molecular weight is 1,000 to 1,000,000 and the imidation ratio is 1 to 35 molar percent, wherein said high polymer compound is (B) an imidated alpha-olefin and maleic anhydride copolymer obtained by imidating part of a copolymer of maleic anhydride and alpha-olefin.

11. (new) The water-soluble lubricant of claim 10, wherein the content of the high polymer compound is 1 to 70 mass percent per 100 mass percent of the water-soluble lubricant.

12. (new) The water-soluble lubricant of claim 10, wherein said alpha-lubricant is isobutylene.